
News Release

FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

2015- 2016 Season

Brigham Young University

General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Journey, a voyage through the heartbeat of the world's cultures.

Any wanderer will tell you that there is something magical about discovering new places and timeless traditions. The International Folk Dance Ensemble invites audiences to entertain their wanderlust with an evening of dance and music.

Their new show, *Journey*, is a 90-minute voyage of dance and music through the heartbeat of the world's cultures. In this show you will see Irish hard shoe, American clogging, Ukrainian Hopak, exotic Indian dances, and much more. It is a kaleidoscope of furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and authentic costumes from across the globe.

So throw off the bowlines and catch the wind in your sails as our companion on this *Journey*. Join us at (_____) on (_____) at (_____).

The dance ensemble is accompanied by the highly versatile and highly acclaimed acoustic band Mountain Strings. These musicians provide live, engaging music that is every bit the dancers' equal in complexity, skill, and professionalism. The musicians demonstrate such extraordinary talent that their performance could be—and, in some venues, often is—a show unto itself.

The ensemble recently returned from Europe where they performed in three international folk festivals; The International Folklore Festival in Karlovac, Croatia; 'Ciudad de Burgos' International Folkloric Festival in Burgos, Spain; and Extremadura Festival in Badajoz, Spain.

Courtney Austrian of the US State Department in the Ukraine says of the performance, "The dancers and the musicians were absolutely magnificent. Everyone in my office who was lucky enough to attend the

(more)

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performance has been talking today about the energy, enthusiasm, and sheer talent that was on stage last night. The overwhelming feeling here is that it's extremely unfortunate that there could only be one performance!"

"A touring production of this size and scope is a rare treasure among academic institutions," says Jeanette Geslison, artistic director of the ensemble. "The time, talent, and resources that go into making this possible are immense. The student performers are enriched as they are immersed in cultural exchange, life-long learning, and service in addition to their professional academic careers."

Since 1964, IFDE has toured all over the world, representing the United States and American folk culture. The group has become internationally famous at the world's most prominent folk dance festivals where they perform with many of the best dance companies from throughout the world. The group has traveled to more than 100 countries with their international repertoire. IFDE has also represented both BYU and the US as the American Dance Ensemble in the world's largest folk festivals.

The International Folk Dance Ensemble originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of 30,000 students from throughout the United States and 100 foreign countries.

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